

VZCZCXYZ0000  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHPU #0253/01 0341841  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 031841Z FEB 06  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2276  
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0127  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0786  
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0118  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0825  
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL//OLE/OI//

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 000253

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA AND USOAS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2016

TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: SIMEUS URGES HAITIANS TO VOTE; NOT SUPPORTING ANY  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Timothy M. Carney for Reasons: 1.4 (b  
and d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Charge met with disqualified AmCit  
presidential candidate Dumarsais Simeus February 1. Simeus  
said he would hold a press conference February 2 to encourage  
people to vote. He further explained that he would not  
publicly back any presidential candidate, but would fully  
support the Tet Ansamn party in legislative elections.  
Simeus underscored that he would serve a role in the next  
Haitian government, but maintain his independence to be able  
to voice his own opinion. Simeus believes Preval will be the  
next president of Haiti. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) Charge met with disqualified Tet Ansamn  
presidential candidate (and AmCit) Dumarsais Simeus February  
¶1. Dr. FNU Parisienne of New York; Center for Free  
Enterprise and Democracy's (CLED) executive secretary Lionel  
DelaTour; and French Chamber of Commerce vice president  
Gregory Brandt accompanied Simeus. Simeus arrived in country  
January 30 after a retreat in Texas with his Haitian and  
American campaign advisors regarding his next steps in the  
Haitian elections.

Support for February 7 Elections  
-----

¶3. (SBU) Simeus told Charge he would hold a press  
conference February 2 to read a short statement encouraging  
people to vote. Simeus said there was "no need to rehash  
what happened in the past" (referring to the judicial  
decision in his favor) "or to bad mouth the international  
community." He said his decision to support the elections  
was based on guidance from his advisors (including Richard  
Coles) as it was "not about any man, or party, but it's for  
the country" and Haiti "must move from chapter one to chapter  
two." Brandt added that this position would ensure Simeus  
remained an "independent and free man" who will support the  
newly elected government. Simeus noted he had agreed to SRSG  
Valdes' request that he make a public statement following the  
elections in support of the results. He said he would do so  
"if the elections are acceptable," but could not "if there is  
an outcry by all sectors."

¶4. (SBU) Parisienne raised a word of caution explaining  
that pro-Lavalas radio stations in New York are strongly

encouraging the electorate to vote next Tuesday. Parisienne ventured that former president Aristide's recent change in message now supportive of the elections could lead to a higher turnout. Brandt noted the same message is being echoed in Port-au-Prince throughout the past week and Lavalas candidates (namely West senate candidate Rudy Heriveaux) are asking the populace to vote for a L'Espwa president and Lavalas' candidates for parliament touting "Vote One, Vote Three." (Note: L'Espwa is the first number of the ballot, Lavalas the third. End Note.)

#### Not Supporting Any Presidential Candidate

-----

15. (SBU) Simeus said that he had met with Preval earlier February 1 to explain his decision not to publicly back any candidate (they last met in December). (Note: Brandt said a similar message was communicated to Manigat. End Note.) Preval is confident of his chances in the presidential race, having just completed a campaign swing through the North, but "went out of his way to ask for (Simeus') support," according to Simeus. Simeus said he has long been bombarded by various candidates (extensively by Preval and Leslie Manigat) seeking his support, but that he would not back any presidential candidate due to the country's current "paralysis." He told Charge that Preval would win in the first round if Simeus publicly supported him. Simeus said he considers Charles Henry Baker a "hardliner." Simeus later said that he further did not want his support of another candidate to be interpreted as some sort of "acquiescence to the interim government." With respect to the legislative races, however, Simeus would fully support the Tet Ansa party.

#### Preval's First Moves Important

-----

16. (C) Brandt opined that the first six months of the transition would be key to the success of the newly elected government. Delatour added that with interim Prime Minister Latortue formally resigning next Tuesday, he would remain a lame duck through the first weeks of a second Preval presidency. He noted there was not a great deal of rapport between the interim government and Preval's team. Delatour pointed out that should Preval win in the first round, he would have approximately seven weeks before inauguration. Simeus' group recommended Preval visit major capitals prior to inauguration, including Washington, D.C. and New York (sic). Charge recommended adding Ottawa to the list. Preval, receptive to the idea, insisted he would visit Brasilia and Santiago. (Comment: It is unclear if Preval made the recommendation out of respect to those countries' contributions to MINUSTAH or because of their respective presidents' socialist background. End Comment.) Delatour stated that Preval "reached out and felt Simeus should be present" when Preval travels to Washington. Simeus had also met with SRS Valdes February 1 who shared the World Bank would be hosting a donors meeting February 21 and that either Preval, or his advisors, should attend if elected in the first round.

#### Stands Ready to Play Role in Assisting New Government

-----

17. (SBU) Simeus underscored that he would serve a role in the next Haitian government, but that he would maintain his independence in order to be able to voice his own opinion "without worrying about any party." Simeus said he would concentrate on attracting foreign investment and be willing to attend government meetings to provide advice, but that he did not want to "become an employee of the newly elected government." Simeus indicated he encouraged Preval to think about what type of personnel would fill spots at key ministries, and insisted Preval consider members of the diaspora to play a significant role. Charge supported this recommendation and further encouraged Simeus to provide Preval's team with a profile to fill positions, rather than putting individual names forward, with the exception that all

should support Mario Andresol to continue as head of the Haitian National Police.

#### Constitution Reform Necessary

-----

18. (SBU) Simeus wholeheartedly agreed with Charge's suggestion that the newly elected parliament act as a constituent assembly. Simeus advocated that "the Haitian diaspora must be included" to avoid repeating the same arguments in the 2011 presidential elections. Both agreed amending the constitution in its current state would take too long. (Note: currently, amendments must be ratified by two sitting successive parliaments, necessitating at least a decade to implement a change. End Note.) Brandt noted that Preval was vague when the constitution was mentioned and sidestepped any discussion of it.

19. (C) Comment: We are delighted to hear Simeus is fully supportive of the electoral process and no longer arguing his name should be on the presidential ballot. Simeus shared his optimism for next week's elections and said he had "matured" from his experience. His advisors convinced him that he could play a powerful role in any future government, if he "takes the higher road and steps aside for the good of Haiti" (which Simeus oft-repeated). It is clear that he (and his advisors) believes Preval will be the next president of Haiti. End Comment.  
CARNEY